

Fresno Police Department

Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

February 22, 2007

Present : Ed Bailey, Morgan Doizaki (for Kathy Omachi), Gordon Donoho, Tom Gentile, Jesse McDonald, Rebeca Rangel, Luke Raughley, Enrique Reade, Michael Roth, H. Spees, Kevin Tovosian (for Robert Harris, Jr.), Darrell Tuckness, Lt. Randy Dobbins and Chief Jerry Dyer.

Absent : Anthony Alaniz, Kamal Abu Shamsieh, Cary Catalano, Roz Clark, Paula Farris, Frank Franco, Lawrence Garcia, Harry Gill, Floyd Harris, Lorena Martinez, Debbie Nard, Jim Newman, Jan Sangster, Deep Sethi, and David Tittle.

Guests: Lt. David Newton and Robert Sack.

The meeting was held in the City Hall Annex Training Room and called to order at 5:32 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from January 25, 2007 were approved.

Agenda Items :

Homeless Problem : The Chief stated that there is currently a homeless problem in Fresno that must be addressed. Due to recent court rulings, the police department must seize and store any items a homeless person may have when arresting them. This is an unrealistic expectation that would take up massive amounts of space. Members of the board suggested that drugs are a large part of the problem and that the mental health of the people must be addressed. The Chief concluded that he feels the mayor is about to do something to address the problem.

Officer Involved Shootings: On February 20, "Fat Tuesday", three officers were shot during a high speed chase that started in the Tower District. The preliminary investigation suggests that the suspect lured the officer into pulling him over. When the suspect pulled over, he exited the vehicle and shot at the officer striking him in the elbow and thigh. The suspect then left the scene and was soon pursued by multiple units. During the pursuit three officers were shot and sustained non-life threatening injuries. The pursuit ended with the suspect

being shot and killed after his car was surrounded and he continued to resist the officer's commands.

One of the board members stated that she was worried about public safety when a high speed chase takes place and questioned why the helicopter does not follow the vehicle until it stops. The Chief stated that the helicopter is only in the air about 20% of the time and does follow the suspect vehicle and warns officers of upcoming hazards. It takes the helicopter time to arrive on scene so the officer must follow the vehicle until air support arrives, if it is available at that time. For the OIS on February 20, Chief Dyer clarified that the Skywatch helicopter took over the pursuit early on as the event unfolded and patrol cars backed off until termination.

Citations:

The Chief wants to reiterate the department's goal for citations. The goal is not to write a set number of tickets; the goal is to make the streets safer and have fewer accidents. If a person gets a citation they feel that was not "deserved" then they will continue to break the law. If the citations are being given at location where the public feels that traffic engineering is to blame it should be addressed. The goal is to write fewer tickets and drive down collisions by educating the public, using the data to address high collision location, and improve areas where engineering is insufficient.

Roundtable:

Tom Gentile wanted to thank the bike patrol and Captain Belluomini for doing a great job at the Vet's Museum in relation to the homeless people.

Jesse McDonald questioned the Chief about his chances of running for Mayor. The Chief replied that he has yet to make a decision and has been praying about where God wants him to be.

Enrique Reade stated that MADD and the "Scared Stiff" program are doing very well and the message that Fresno will not play around with DUI's is now well known throughout the community.

Gordon Donoho requested an update on the Mayors Gang Prevention Initiative. The Chief stated that there has been about 1230 arrest over the last 100 days. 92 service providers are signed up to assist the persons who want out of the gang and there have been 227 referrals thus far.

Lt. David Newton thanked the Chief for addressing a group of parolees at an integration meeting. The Chief stated that he wants the people getting out of prison to have a different view of the

police department and break down some of the barriers they may have built throughout there lives.

Announcements:

None.

Closing Remarks:

None.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.